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SECURITY INFORMATION

Assistant Director, Research and Reports

12 September 1952

Chief, Reports Division

ONI Request for Project

- REFERENCES: A. Memorandum from the D/NI to D/CI dated 25 August 1952 (Op-322Y2F/crh),  
CIA TSC NO. 029845  
B. Memorandum from the AD/RR to Chief, D/R dated 8 September 1952,  
CIA TSC NO. 70439

1. On the basis of a preliminary review of the ONI request contained in reference A and conferences with D/GG, S/COM, D/Z and St/C, I recommend that the project be assigned to D/GG and that [REDACTED] be designated project chairman. He is prepared and willing to undertake this assignment. 25X1A9a

2. Ordinarily this project would be assigned to S/COM but, in view of their almost complete lack of personnel, it is doubtful that they could undertake the work without an unacceptable delay. D/GG, on the other hand, has had wide experience in comparable projects such as the NSC 29 vulnerability studies and they have the personnel needed to get the subject project under way promptly. D/GG would set up a task group in close association with S/COM and other contributing and interested units but would itself undertake the overall guidance and development of the project.

3. In order to lay out the project in detail it is important that liaison be established with one or more persons on the working level in ONI. An important immediate consideration is a review of sources already exploited by the Navy. ONI should also contribute to the selection of non-orbit areas to be studied on the basis of war plans and other estimates. Continuing liaison would be desirable during the study.

4. Although it is impossible to make an estimate of the time needed for completion until the project has been set up in detail and the requirements identified, it is unlikely that it could be completed in less than six months and it probably will take much longer. My judgment is that, with the requester's permission, it should be developed into an integrated ORR publication and be given some distribution. You will note that the requester asks that the data be forwarded "as it is obtained."

5. I should note that the Chief, D/S, questions whether the project should be accepted at all until it has been ascertained

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specifically what ONI has done itself. He suggests, also, that it might be referred to the EIC. In any case, he is strongly of the opinion that primary responsibility should be given to S/COM if the project is accepted. You will undoubtedly wish to hear his views on the subject before you proceed.

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6. For purposes of your reply to Admiral Stout, I suggest that you ask that one or more representatives be nominated to work with ORR on the project and that their names and extensions be communicated to [REDACTED] on extension 2763. You may wish to withhold a firm acceptance until after initial conferences with ONI. My own judgment is that we should proceed with the project and that ONI cooperation will be forthcoming.

7. References A and B are being forwarded separately. If you will return them to D/R, with a copy of your memorandum of reply, we will carry out the details of initiation. The production number of this project will be MP-99, pending a decision at a later date regarding its final form.

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[REDACTED]

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ORR:D/R [REDACTED]:hb

Distribution:

- ✓1 - Addressee
- 2 - D/R
- 1 - R/PI

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